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Security Council

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Letter dated 6 October 2000 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to convey the attached communication, dated 6 October 2000, which I have received from the Secretary-General of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would bring it to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(Signed) Kofi A. **Annan**

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Annex

Letter dated 6 October 2000 from the Secretary-General of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization addressed to the Secretary-General

In accordance with Security Council resolution 1088 (1996), I attach the monthly report on operations of the Stabilization Force (see appendix). I would appreciate your making this report available to the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Lord **Robertson** of Port Ellen

Appendix

Monthly report to the Security Council on operations of the Stabilization Force

1. Approximately 23,300 troops were deployed in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia during the reporting period (13 August-12 September), with contributions from all the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) allies and from 15 non-NATO countries. The Stabilization Force (SFOR) troops continued to conduct surveillance and reconnaissance operations by ground and air patrols. Operations included providing area security, monitoring the border with the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, monitoring the entity armed forces, conducting weapons storage site inspections, providing support to the international organizations in theatre and collecting weapons and ammunition in the framework of Operation Harvest.

2. On 8 September, Lieutenant General Dodson assumed command of SFOR from the outgoing commander, Lieutenant General Adams.

3. SFOR troops continued to monitor compliance with the provisions of Security Council resolution 1160 (1998), which prohibits the transport of weapons into the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia by providing an intensified presence on the ground. No violations were reported.

4. On 28 August in Kiseljak (Multi-National Division South-East), SFOR troops supported the United Nations International Police Task Force (IPTF) and Federal Ministry of the Interior police during the successful arrest of Dominik Ilijasevic, a Croat suspected of both criminal activities and war crimes.[a] On 11 September, in the Mostar area, SFOR again supported Federal Ministry of the Interior police in the arrest of a suspected criminal, Basic Zoran.

5. During the period, SFOR troops continued to monitor the movement of controlled petroleum products into the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia by establishing traffic-control points. No violations were reported.

Cooperation and compliance by the parties

6. The situation in theatre remained calm and stable overall, with the entities in substantial compliance with the military provisions of the Peace Agreement. The town of Kozluk, in Multi-National Division (North), was the scene of a minor demonstration on 17 August, when Bosnian Serbs demonstrated against evictions in the area to make way for Bosniac returnees. Bosniac returnees to the town were themselves harassed during the period, and there were a number of incidents of rock throwing.

7. During the period, SFOR troops conducted 143 inspections of military weapon storage sites. No violations were reported.

8. SFOR troops monitored a total of 1,228 training and movement activities: 578 Bosnian Serb, 366 Bosniac, 119 Bosnian Croat and 165 Federation.

9. Between 13 August and 12 September, SFOR monitored 754 demining activities carried out by the entity armed forces. The fifth session of the summer

demining season ended on 5 September. To date, a total of 570,000 square metres of land has been cleared in 2000, an increase of 200,000 square metres over last year.

Cooperation with international organizations

10. Within its capabilities and in accordance with its mandate, SFOR continues to provide assistance to the international organizations in theatre, including the United Nations Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina, IPTF, the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, the Office of the High Representative, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

11. SFOR continues to support the Office of the High Representative in the establishment of joint institutions in Bosnia and Herzegovina. At the meeting of the Standing Committee on Military Matters on 22 August, the secretariat's work plan for the coming six months was approved. Entity representatives confirmed that they were on track to achieve the promised 15 per cent force reductions by the end of 2000.

12. SFOR support to OSCE for the 11 November municipal elections will include enhanced security operations with a rapid-response capability, limited equipment support, pre-election supervisor training, exchange of liaison officers and 24-hour joint operational centre staffing, at both SFOR and OSCE.

Outlook

13. Isolated acts of violence can be expected, including against SFOR and the international community, especially in connection with the return of refugees and displaced persons.

Notes

[a] The Russian Federation confirms its special position on this matter.